CLEOPATRA.

Being an Account of the Fall and Vengeance of Harmachis, the Royal Egyptian,

AS SET FORTH BY HIS OWN HAND.

By H. RIDER HAGOARD, Author of "King Solomon's Mines," o," "Allen Quatermain." Etc., Etc., Etc.

ville and Greiffenhagen.



carven chairs and taking counsel together. All was the same. The same cold images of kings and Gods gazed with the same thou dark Harmathing hideous to be hold! O lost Egypt, with all thy sins thou rast indeed a queen. Come, me, prince; let us stretch wast indeed a queen. Come, id me, prince; let us stretch this poor clay upon the bed and deck it royally, so that it may give its dumb audience to the messengers of Cæsar as becomes the

was very heavy, and now that all was done, I was weary. Together, then, we lifted up the body and laid it on the golden bed. Charmion placed the uraus crown upon the ivory brow, and combed the night-dark hair that showed never a thread of silver, and for the last time shut those eyes where-in had shone all the changing glories of the sea. She folded the chill hands upon the breast whence passion's breath had fled, and straightened the bent knees beneath and straightened the bent knees beneath the broidered robe, and by the head set flowers, and there at length Cleopatralay, more splendid now in her cold majesty of death than in her richest hour of breathing beauty. We drew back and looked on her, and on dead Iras at her feet.

"It is done," quoth Charmion; "we are avenged; and now, Harmachis, dost follow by this same road!" and she nodded towards the phial on the board.
"Nay, Charmion. I fly—I fly to a heavier

wards the phial on the board.

"Nay, Charmion. I fly—I fly to a heavier death. Not thus easily may I end my space of earthly penance."

"So be it, Harmachis, and I, Harmachis—I fly also, but with swifter wings. My game is played. I, too, have made atonement. Oh! what a bitter fate is mine, to have brought misery on all I love, and, in the end, to die unloved. To thee I have atoned; to my angered Gods I have atoned; to my angered Gods, a traitor to my country, a traitor to my oath. I come hither to say that I have done this. I have executed the divine vengeance on her who ruined me and gave Egypt to the Roman. And now that, after thee, I loved her best of all. So of her cup and the cup of Iras I will surely drink."

And she took the phial, and with a steady hand poured that which was left of the poison into the goblet.

"Bethink thee, Charmion," I said; "yet mayst thou live for many years, hiding was a complished by my wisdom and the help of the angry Gods, behold, I come, with all my shame upon my head, to declare the thing I am, and take the traitor's guerdon!"

"It is so," I went on, lifting up my head.
"Harmachis betrayed the plot, and self to the wanton Cleopatra."

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nand poured that which was left of the poison into the goblet. "Bethink thee, Charmion," I said; "yet mayst thou live for many years, hiding these sorrows beneath the withered days." "Yet I may, but I will not! To live the "Yet I may, but I will not! To live the prey of so many memories, the fount of an undying shame that night by night, as I lie sleepless, shall well afresh from my sorrow-stricken heart to live, torn by a love I can not lose. To stand alone, like some storm-twisted tree, and sighing day by day to the winds of heaven. Gaze upon the desert of my life, while I wait the lingering lightning's stroke. Nay, that will not I; Harmachis, I had died long since, but I lived on to serve thee; now no more thou needest me, and I go. Oh, fare thee well! forever fare thee well; for not again shall I look upon thy face, and where I go thou goest not; for thou dost not love me who still dost love that queenly woman theu hast hounded to the death. Her thou shalt never win, and thee I shall never win, and this is the bitter end of fate. See, Harmachis! I ask one boon before I go, and for all time become raught to thee but a memory of shame; tell me that thou dost forgive me so far as thine is to forgive, and, a token thereof, kiss me-with no lover's disa, but kiss me on the brow, and bid me

rotched, and pitiful, trembling lips, and sed upon my face.

"Charmion," I answered, "we are free to act for good or evil, and yet methinks there is a fate above our fate, that, blowing from strange shores, compels our little sails of purpose, set them as we will, and drives us to destruction. I forgive thee, Charmion, as I trust in turn to be forgiven, and by this kiss, the first and the last, I seal our peace." And with my lips I touched her brow.

She spoke no more; only for a little while she stood gazing on me with sad eyes, then She speke no more; only for a little while she stood gazing on me with sad eyes, then she lifted the goblet, and said: "Royal Harmachis, in this deadly cup I piedge thee; would that I had drunk of it ere ever I looked upon thy face, Pharaoh, who, thy ains outworn, yet shall rule in perfect peace o'er worlds I may not tread, who yet shall sway a kinglier scepter than that I robbed thee of, forever fare thee well."

She drank, cast down the cup and for a

robbed thee of, forever fare thee well."

She drank, cast down the cup and for a moment stood with the wide eyes of one who looks for death. Then he came, and Charmion, the Egyptian, fell prone upon the floor, dead; and for a moment I stood alone with the dead.

I crept to the side of Cleopatra, and, now that none were left to see, I sat down on the bed and laid her head upon my knee, as once before it had been laid; in that night of sacrliege beneath the everlasting pyramid. Then I kissed her chill brow and went from the house of death "avenged, but sorely smitten with despair."

"Physician," said the officer of the guard as I went through the gates, "what passes

as I went through the gates, "what passes you're in the monument! Methought I heard the sounds of death." "Naught passes; all hath passed," I made reply, and went; and as I went in the darkness I heard the sound of voices and the running of the feet of Cassar's messengers. Flying swiftly to my house, I found Atoua waiting at the gates. She drew me into a quict chamber and closed the doors.

waiting at the gates. She drew me into a quiet chamber and closed the doors.

"Is it done?" she asked, and turned her wrinkled face to mine, while the lamp-light streamed white prop her snow hair.

Now all things end in darkness and in ashes,

"Is it done?" she asked, and turned her wrinkled face to mine, while the lamp-light streamed white upon her snowy hair.

"Nay, why ask—I know that it is done."
"Ay, it is done and well done, cid-wife; all are dead: Cleopatra, Iras, Charmion—all save myself."

The aged woman drew up her bent form and cried: "Now ist me go in peace, for I have seen my desire upon thy foes and the foes of Khem—is, is! not in vain have I lived on beyond the years of man. I have seen my desire upon thy enemies—I have gathered the dews of death, and thy foe hath drunk thereof. Fallen is the brow of pridg! The shame of Khem is level with the dust! Ah—would that I might have seen that wanton die!"

"Ccase, weman, cease! The dead are gathered to the dead. Osiris holds them fast, and everlasting silence seals their lips. Pursue not the fallen great with insults. Up—let us fly to Abouthis, that all may be accomplished."

"Fly thou, Harmachis! — Harmachis, fly—but I fly not. To this end only I have lingered on the earth. Now I until the knot of life and let my spirit free! Fare thee well, prince, the pligrimage is done! Harmachis, from a babe have I loved thee, and love thee yet! But no more in this world may! a share thy griefs. I am spent. Osiris, take thou my spirit!" And her trembling knees gave way, and she sank to the ground.

I rau to be side and looked upon her.

The sun sinks over Abouthis. The red the ground.

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Osiris, take thou my spirit!" And her trembling knees gave way, and she sank to the ground.

I ran to her side and looked upon her. Sho was already dead, and I was alone upon the earth without a friend to comfort me.

Then I turned and went, no man hindering me, for all was confusion in the city, and doparted from Alexandris in a vessel I had made ready. On the eighth day I landed, and, in the carrying out of my purpose traveled on fast across the fields to the body shrines of Abouthis. And here, as I hasse the worship of the gods had been lately set up again, in the temple of the divine Sethi (for Charmion had coused Cleopatra to repent of her decree of vengeance and to restore the lands that she had seized, though the treasure she restored not), and the temple having been purified, now, at the season of the feast of Isis, all the high priests of the ancient temples of Egypt were gathered together to celebrate the coming home of the gods into their holy place.

I gained the city. It was on the seventh

Softly we tread, our measured footstops fo

"Your pardon, sirs, and I willtell you all, for I am come hither to that end. Per-chance among you there may be some— methinks I see some—who nigh eleven years

ago were gathered in this hall to secretly crown one Harmachis, Pharach of Khem?" "It is true," they said; "but how knowest

thou these things, thou, Olympus?"
"Of the rest of those seven-and-thirty no-

bles," I went on, making no answer, "are two-and-thirty missing. Some are deed, as Amenemhat is dead; some are slain, as

Sepa is slain; and some, perchance, yet la-bor as slaves within the mines, or live afar,

fearing vengeance."
"It is so," they said; "alas! it is so. Har-

hath broke the oath that may not be broke?" asked he who first had spoken, in heavy

"I know it well," I answered; "I court that awful doom." "Tell us more of this matter, thou who

So, in cold, clear words, I laid bare all my shame, keeping back nothing, and ever as I spoke I saw their faces grow more hard, and know that for me there was no mercy; nor did I ask it; nor had I asked, could it have

erable, the priest of the temple of the divine Hatshepu at Tape, spoke in foy accents:

"Thou, Harmachis, we have considered this matter. Thou hast sinned the three-fold deadly sin. On thy head lies the burden of the wee of Khem, this day enthralled

priest! thou forsworn patriot! thou Pharach, shameful and discrewned! Here,

where we set the double grown upon thy head, we doom thee to the doom! Go to

thy dungeon, and await the failing of its stroke! Go remembering what thou mightest have been and what thou art, and

may those Gods who, through thy evil do-ing, shall perchance ere long cease to be worshiped within these holy temples, give

to thee that mercy which we deny! Lead

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Q

wast Harmachis."

OPENING OF THE Soft on the dead that liveth are we calling. Return, Osiria, from thy kingdom cold, Return to them that worship thee of old," Return to them that worship thee of old."

And then, when the sacred music ceased, as aforetime on the setting of the majesty of Ra—the high priest raised the status of the living God and held it on high before the multitude. With a joyful shout of "Osiris, our hope! Osiris! Osiris!" the people tore the black wrappings from their dress, showing the white robes beneath, and, as one man, bowed before the God. Then they went to feast, each at his home; but I stayed in the court of the temple. Presently a priest of the temple drew near, and asked me of my business; and I answered him that I came from Alexandria, and would be led before the council of the high priest, for I know that the holy priests were gathered together debating the tidings from Alexandria. Thereon the man left and the high priests, hearing that I was Grand Opera House! FRIDAY EVE., MARCH 14.

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and the high priests, hearing that I was from Alexandria, ordered that I should be

IN CONCERT AND GRAND OPERA PART I.-MISCELLANEOUS.

from Alexandria, ordered that I should be led into their presence in the second hall of columns—and so I was sed in. It was already dark, and between the great pillars lights were set, as on that night when I was crowned Pharaoh of the upper and the lower land. There, too, was the long line of dignitaries seated in their carven chairs and taking counsel together.

đ	crowned, being the only conspirators who	THE COMPANY INCLUDES
ĺ	had escaped the vengeance of Cleopatra	MissCLARA LOUISE KELLOGG
Ü	stand on the spot where once I had been	MISSULATIA LOUISE RELLOGG
E	crowned, and made me ready for the last	Prima Donna Soprano, and
ı	act of shame, with such bitterness of heart	MISS CARRIE MORSEContralto
i	as can not be written.	SIG. CARLO SPIGAROLITenor
	"Why, it is the physician Olympus!" said one—"he who lived a hermit in the tombs	MR. WM. H. LEEBaritone
,	of Tape, and who but lately was of the	MR. CHAS. E. PRATTPianist
•	household of Cleopatra. Is it, then, true	
Ų.	that the queen is dead by her own hand,	
	physician I"	Lower Floor, reserved\$1 00
•	"Yea, holy sirs, I am that physician; also	First three rows in Balcony
•	Cleopatra is dead by my hand."	Uther seats in Dalconv
	"By thy hand? Why, how comes this?	Gallery 50 General admission to lower floor 75
1	though well she is dead, forsooth, the wick-	General admission to lower floor
	ed wanton!"	General admission to Balcony
,	"Your pardon, sirs, and I will tell you all,	
•	for I am come hither to that end. Per-	

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been granted. When, at last, I had done, they put me aside while they took counsel. Then they drew me forth again, and the eldest among them, a man very old and ven-Sallee & Craddock

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wed head I went, looking not up, and yet I felt their eyes burn upon my face. Oh! surely, of all my shames, this is the heavi-W. H. COOPER, Breeder Shipper AST WRITING OF HARMACHIS, THE BOTAL EGYPTIAN. OF PRIZE WINNING STOCK. HEY led me to the

prison chamber that is high in the Pylon tower, and here I wait my doom. I know not when the word of fate shall fall week grows to week, and month to month, and still it is delayed.

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and still it is delayed. Still it quivers unseen above my head. I know that it will fall, but when, I know not. Perchance I shall wake in some dead hour of midnight to hear the steathy steps of the slayers, and be hurried forth; perchance they are now at hand. Then will come the secret cell. The horror! NEW The nameless coffin—and at last it will be

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